

This was the culmination of years of work on the part of Gunnison area citizens. Early efforts for a college came in 1885 when Archie M. Stevenson, a Gunnison resident and state senator for the district, introduced a bill in the Colorado General Assembly.

The cornerstone for the Normal School building was laid in October 1910 with the first classes beginning in September 1911. A total of 13 students attended classes taught by ten professors. In 1923 the college's name was changed to Western State College and it became a liberal arts college. Over the years Western has earned a reputation as a College whose faculty care deeply about teaching and working closely with the students.

Western State College has developed strong academic programs in many areas and have attracted faculty with degrees from all over the world. Western's biology program has received a "Program of Excellence" award from the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. In 1975, Western's Water Workshop began, and continues to attract participants from around this region to work on one of west's most pressing issues.

Western has recently opened a state of the art \$9 million science building, making it one of the most sophisticated science facilities in the state. Its athletic department has placed in the top 10 nationally over the past few years

in the Sears Cup for outstanding Division II schools.

Mr. Speaker, for 100 years, Western State College has continued to excel in its educational mission. I would like Congress to praise the institution for its outstanding accomplishments and wish it continued success and another 100 years of excellence.

TRIBUTE HONORING THE WINERY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize two of Grand Junction's leading restaurateurs and an outstanding dining establishment. After 28 years, Winery owner Frank Bering is retiring from the business, turning over the reins to Chris Blackburn who recently purchased this long-time staple of Main Street eateries. I would now like to pay tribute to both of these outstanding individuals and a wonderful restaurant known throughout western Colorado—The Winery.

Frank founded The Winery 28 years ago after he moved to the Western Slope from Chicago. Frank decided Grand Junction need-

ed a good restaurant after he ordered a glass of red wine, which was served chilled instead of room temperature. With the help of Grand Junction residents, Frank opened The Winery. "I'm bittersweet about it, but I'm going on to a new life," Frank said in a recent Grand Junction Daily Sentinel story about leaving the business.

Frank's restaurant did very well, thanks both to great food and the oil and uranium boom of the late 70's and early 80's. It was then that Frank decided to open up G.B. Gladstone's, and managed to keep it going through the economic bust of the 80's. My good friend Chris Blackburn, who recently bought Gladstone's as well, views Frank as a pioneer who saw potential where no one else did. According to John Moss, another restaurant owner and personal friend of mine, Frank did more than build a reputation and make a living—he changed the culture and the community of Grand Junction.

Mr. Speaker, both Frank and Chris deserve the thanks and commendations of this body. As Frank moves on to new pursuits, we say thank you for your hard work and service. As Chris takes the helm at one of Grand Junction's best known restaurants, we say best wishes for continued success.